

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling packet data transmissions in a TDMA communications system wherein transmitters and receivers share channel resources dynamically for uplink and downlink operating periods and where allocations of measurement and recovery periods between uplink and downlink periods and between downlink and uplink periods are prescribed characterised by re-allocation of measurement periods to increase the availability of uplink resources when uplink resources are otherwise constrained by prescribed allocations of measurement periods.
2. A method as in claim 1 where the time division for access is by consecutive frames of eight slots.
3. A method as in claim 1 or claim 2 in which the communications system is a General Packet Radio System.
4. A method as in claims 1 to 3 where the measurement period is re-allocated from a conjunct with a period for preparation for reception  $T_{ra}$  to a conjunct with a period for preparation for transmission  $T_{ta}$ .
5. A method as in any preceding claim where the multislot class of operation is class 12.

6. A method as in any preceding claim where the measurement period re-allocated is a neighbour cell signal level measurement period.

5 7. A method as in any preceding claim where if  $N$  slots in total are allocated for both uplink and downlink and  $N+T_{ra}+3 \leq 8$ , then measurement and recovery period  $T_{ra}$  is allocated whereas if  $N+T_{ra}+3 > 8$ , then measurement and recovery period  $T_{ta}$  is allocated.

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8. A mobile station operating extended dynamic allocation within a GPRS system and in which on receipt of an allocation of  $N$  packet data channels computes a value  $N + T_{ra}+3$  and uses the measurement and recovery period  $T_{ra}$  for  
15 values not greater than 8 or the measurement and recovery period  $T_{ta}$  for values greater than 8.

9. A base station operating with a mobile station in a GPRS system wherein base station allocation of a number  $N$  of packet data channels depends upon fulfilment of the  
20 conditions  $N+T_{ra}+3 > 8$  and  $N+T_{rb}+3 \leq 8$  in respect of the mobile station, where  $T_{rb}$  is the time needed for the mobile station to get ready to receive.